

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, October 11, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**

**Black-Eyed Susan Room, City Hall**

#### **1. Welcome / Agenda Review/Minutes Adoption**

- In attendance: Chair Clark Reed, John Becker, Lea Rosenbohm, Devinie Rukshani Lye, Herb Winkler, Lincoln Reed and staff liaison Erica Shingara. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. and the August minutes were approved.

#### **2. Environment Commission Report**

- Staff briefed the Commission on the Draft Rock Creek Watershed study and proposed amendments to Chapter 19 of the City Code for sediment and erosion control.
- The Commission nominated Clark Reed to serve as the Commission's Chair for one year. Pending Mr. Reed's official appointment by the Mayor and Council, the SDEC Chair position will be included on the agenda for a future meeting.
- The Multi-City Commission meeting will be held on October 18 at College Park. Members suggested that Rockville offer to host the spring meeting.
- Rockville Summit 2012 is scheduled for November 3.

#### **3. Environmental Management Division Report**

- The City of Rockville received two awards for sustainability. The Mayor received the Sustainable Maryland Certified Award on October 4th and the Bethesda Green Award on October 11.
- EPA released the 2012 Green Power Community Challenge rankings. Over the last year, Rockville's green power usage increased from 67.18 million kilowatt hours (13th in nation) to 81.09 million kWh (12th in nation).
- EPA is working with local governments throughout D.C. to coordinate a solar collaborative procurement initiative. While Rockville may not have a specific project eligible for the first round of this initiative, it presents a good opportunity to learn from this regional effort. EPA's technical expert for this program has offered to meeting with Rockville staff to discuss this initiative, describe the financing options available for solar (direct purchase vs. power purchase agreements), and review some of the technical requirements that can lead to successful projects. The SDEC was supportive of this effort and Chair Reed requested the opportunity to sit-in on the initial meeting to learn about potential opportunities and barriers.
- The Croydon Creek Nature Center will screen the movie YERT (Your Environmental Road Trip) on October 24 from 7-9 p.m. Information is in the Rec Guide. The Commission may consider inviting the multi-city environmental groups, and environmental groups for local high schools, Un. Of Shady Grove and Montgomery College.

#### 4. SDEC Meeting Schedule

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the SDEC agreed to move the monthly meeting from the third Tuesday of the month to the **third Thursday** of the month.
- The Environment Commission has also moved its monthly meetings to the first Tuesday of the month to the first Thursday of the month.

#### 5. SDEC Work Plan and Energy Competition

- The Committee reviewed slides from a presentation on Montgomery County's draft Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Policy Study and discussed the relationship to SDEC goals.
  - The study is available at:  
[www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/energy/Energystudy.asp](http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/energy/Energystudy.asp)
  - The study identified opportunities to **drive demand for energy efficiency** (such as a community energy challenge, performance benchmarking and disclosure, building assessment and retro-commissioning, building energy codes, and building retrofit requirements) and **enable investment in energy efficiency** (such as tax credits, PACE, on-bill financing, energy efficiency leasing, and rebate and grant programs).
  - The results of a stakeholder survey indicated that voluntary approaches were preferred.
  - The report also identified that EmPOWER Maryland programs from utilities offer significant leverage.
- The study's priorities and recommendations are in-line with the SDEC's work plan. The SDEC discussed potential partnership opportunities to leverage limited resources (Montgomery County, Pepco, colleges, schools, etc.).
- Clark Reed researched grants and local energy non-profits; however, he found limited options for local non-profits and foundations.
- The Committee also discussed researching other communities that have implemented energy challenges to get lessons learned from their experiences (e.g., Colorado, Arlington Green Games, etc.).
- Next steps:
  - Compile a set of questions for existing energy competition coordinators.
  - Contact Montgomery County and Arlington for additional information or to attend a future meeting.

#### 6. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events

- None.

#### 7. Wrap-up and Adjourn

The next SDEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, November 15, 2012** at Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.